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Imagery analysis report

Missile Canister Mockups At Mobile IRBM Bases, USSR (S)

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MISSILE CANISTER MOCKUPS AT MOBILE IRBM BASES, USSR (S)

1. (TSR) Reanalysis of imagery of missile canister mockups at two SS-20 bases in the USSR (Figure 1) revealed noticeable differences in the configuration and dimensions of the launch assist device (LAD) section of the missile canister mockups. The LAD section of the mockups at Postavy Mobile IRBM Base 1 [] closely resembles the LAD section of an SS-16 missile canister. The LAD section of the mockups at Polotsk Mobile IRBM Base 1 [] resembles the LAD section of an SS-20 missile canister. The missile canister mockups at both bases are on SS-16/-20 transporter-erector-launcher (TEL)/resupply mockups and are probably fabricated of wood. The mensuration data in this report supersedes the data previously reported by NPIC.

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2. (TSR) The missile canister mockups at Postavy (Figure 2) correspond in both size and configuration to the SS-16 ICBM missile canister. The SS-16 missile canister mockups were observed under construction on [] and appeared to be complete by []. The two main parts of the missile canister mockups—the main body and the LAD—are nearly identical to the SS-16 missile canisters previously observed at Plesetsk Missile and Space Test Center []. The overall length of the mockups is []. The main body is [] and the LAD section is [] in diameter. The overall length of comparable SS-16 missile canister components is []—the main body is [] and the LAD is []. The length of the main missile canister body and the length and diameter of the LAD are the principle means of distinguishing between SS-16 and SS-20 missile canisters. Although the main body of the SS-16 missile canister is longer overall than the main body of the SS-20 missile canister, the most distinctive difference between the two missile canisters is the LAD. The SS-16 LAD is shorter and wider in diameter than the SS-20 LAD. An SS-20 missile canister near the mockups was used for visual and mensural comparison (Figure 3).

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3. (TSR) The missile canister mockups constructed at Polotsk, although similar in appearance to those at Postavy, correspond in configuration to SS-20 missile canisters (Figure 4). The overall length of the mockups varies from []. However, the dimensions of the LADs were [] meters, which closely match those of the LAD section on SS-20 canisters. These mockups were observed under construction on [].

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IMAGERY

(TSR) All available KEYHOLE imagery through [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [].

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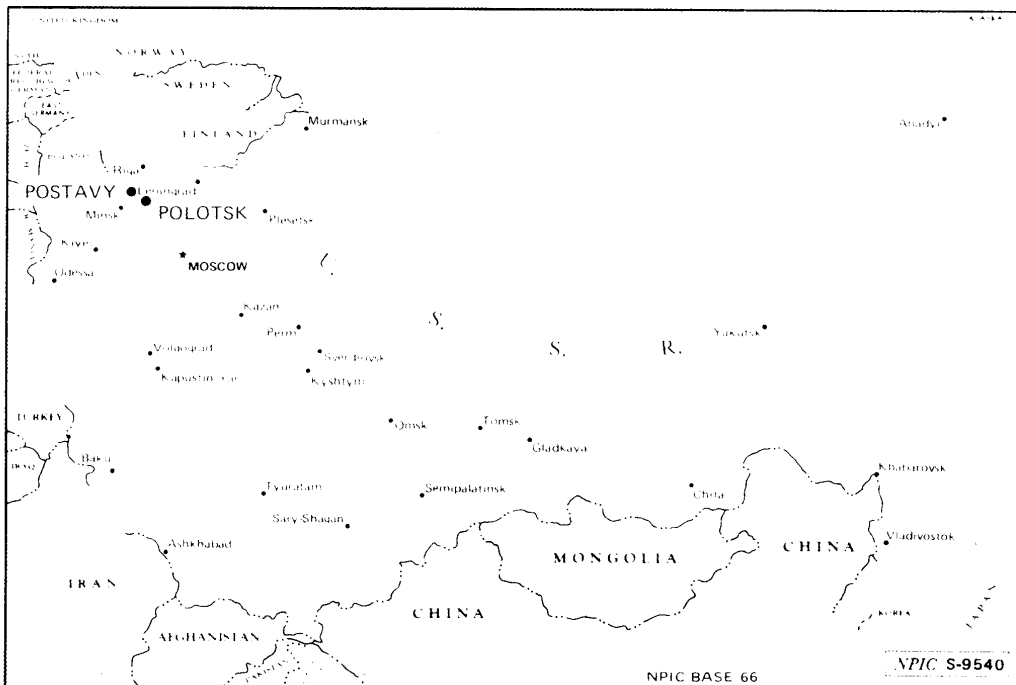


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF POSTAVY MOBILE IRBM BASE 1 AND POLOTSK MOBILE IRBM BASE 1, USSR

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